

REMARKS


The present amendment and remarks are in response to the final Office Action entered in the above identified case and mailed on November 25, 2005. Claims 1-15 and 18-38 were rejected under 35 U.S. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,262,880 to Abileah in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,643,682 to Fujishiro et al. Claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Abileah and Fujishiro further in view of U.S. Patent No. 8,857,825 to Kanatsu et al. Applicant has amended the independent claims to more clearly define the invention and respectfully submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

As amended, independent claims 1, 15, and 22, call for a combination of elements including “an unitary case supporting the plurality of fluorescent lamps and the heat protection plate, wherein the heat protection plate is disposed in the case.” None of the cited references alone or in combination teaches or suggests such a feature of the present invention. According to the Examiner, Fujishiro et al. teach a case comprising elements 31, 32, and 33 shown in Fig. 7A. Fujishiro et al. refer to these as a “shield front”, “shield center”, and “shield rear”. Whether or not these components comprise a case is at most arguable, however as is clear from Fig. 7A they certainly do not form a unitary case. The shield front 31, shield center 32, and shield rear 33 are clearly separate pieces, not a unitary case. Thus, when combined with the other references, there is still no teaching or suggestion of a unitary case, and rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper.

For this reason Applicants respectfully submit that all claims currently pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. However, if there are any outstanding issues

the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicants' attorney at the number provided below to resolve such issues and advance the allowance of the case.

Respectfully submitted,



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